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March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Central Crops Research Station in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is North Carolina State University located at 20 Watauga Drive, Holladay Hall, Raleigh, NC 27695.

North Carolina State's Clayton research station is the main research facility in North Carolina for the USDA-ARS corn and soybean research as well as the cooperative research to improve the small grains program. Facilities and infrastructure funding would be devoted to improving the research capacity of the soybean and grains group by making the following improvements: 1) grain fields irrigation upgrades and replacement, 2) seed handling building renovation and seed drying storage equipment, 3) input storage facility renovation and improvement, and 4) enhanced grain drying and storage equipment.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project will have significant benefits for agricultural development, innovation, and economic growth. This research will enhance crop productivity, sustainability, and resilience, which can have far-reaching impacts on food security. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Wiley Nickel

Member of Congress